AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A software program providing system for providing and managing access to a software program, comprising:

a removable storage medium for storing said software program and an individual identification code for identifying said removable storage medium;

a user terminal for installing said removable storage medium therein and for accessing said software program stored in said removable storage medium;

database management means for storing a database including individual information of a user, information regarding a range of access limitations to said software program, and information regarding a condition of access to said software program, wherein said database is searched using said individual identification code as a search key, wherein said information regarding said range of access limitations includes a plurality of supplemental pay functions and said information regarding said condition of access includes purchased counts and used counts, and

said database management means further comprises fee charging means for charging a fee for adding purchased counts only to access a selected one of said plurality of supplemental pay functions, wherein said software program is accessed for free

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<u>unless access to one of said plurality of pay functions is</u>
<u>requested</u>; and

information communication means for connecting said database management means with said user terminal, wherein

said software program providing system authorizes said user terminal to access said software program stored in said removable storage medium based on said information regarding said range of access limitations, said information regarding said condition of access to said software program, and said information searched using said individual identification code as said search key, said database management means reading said individual identification code from said removable storage medium installed in said user terminal through said information communication means.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). The software program providing system according to claim 1, wherein said information communication means further comprises ciphering means for ciphering communication between said database and said user terminal.

Claim 4 (Original) The software program providing system according to claim 1, wherein said storage means further comprises a DVD-ROM and said individual identification code

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includes a BCA code recorded through a laser beam during a fabrication process of said individual identification code.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A software program providing method for providing and managing access to a software program, comprising the following steps of:

storing said software program in a removable storage medium along with an individual identification code for identifying said removable storage medium;

storing into a database, information regarding individual information of a user, information regarding a range of access limitations to said software program, and information regarding a condition of access to said software program, wherein said database is searched using said individual identification code as a search key, and said information regarding said range of access limitations includes a plurality of supplemental pay functions and said information regarding said condition of access includes purchased counts and used counts;

charging a fee for adding purchased counts to access a selected one of said plurality of supplemental pay functions, wherein said software program is accessed for free unless access to one of said plurality of pay functions is requested;

communicating between a user terminal having said removable storage medium installed therein and a database management means managing said database,

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wherein said communicating is done when said user accesses said software program stored in said removable storage medium installed in said user terminal; and

authorizing said user terminal to access said software program—stored in said removable storage medium based on said information regarding said range of access limitations, said information regarding said access condition to said software program, and said information searched from said database based on said individual identification code, wherein said individual identification code is read out from said removable storage medium installed in said user terminal.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original). The software program providing method according to claim 5, wherein said communicating step further comprises the step of ciphering communication between said user terminal and said database management means.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A software program providing system for providing and managing access to a software program, comprising:

a removable storage medium for storing said software program and an individual identification code for identifying said removable storage medium;

a user terminal for installing said removable storage medium therein and for accessing said software program stored in said removable storage medium;

database management means for storing a database including individual information of a user, information regarding a range of access limitations to said software program including a plurality of supplemental pay functions, and information regarding a condition of access to said software program, wherein said database is searched using said individual identification code as a search key, wherein said database management means further comprises fee charging means for charging a fee only to access a selected one of said plurality of supplemental pay functions, wherein said software program is accessed for free unless access to one of said plurality of pay functions is requested; and

information communication means for connecting said database management means with said user terminal, wherein

said software program providing system authorizes said user terminal to access said software program stored in said removable storage medium based on said information regarding said range of access limitations, said information regarding said condition of access to said software program, and said information searched using said individual identification code as said search key, said database management means reading said individual identification code from said removable storage medium installed

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in said user terminal through said information communication

means.